

FREDERICK SCHAUM.

[To accompany Bill H. R. No. 669.]

APRIL 20, 1860.

Mr. FLORENCE, from the Committee on Invalid Pensions, made the following

REPORT.

*The Committee on Invalid Pensions, to whom was referred the petition of Frederick Schaum, respectfully report :*

That it appears from a certificate of the Adjutant General's office, that the petitioner was regularly enlisted at Philadelphia in January, 1840, after the usual examinations, as a private soldier in the United States army for five years ; that he was shortly afterwards transferred to Fort Wood, in New York harbor, where he was discharged on the 12th of July, 1840, on surgeon's certificate of " general disability—chronic affection of the heart and lungs, caused by a severe injury in the chest."

The petitioner states in his affidavit that his poor health, and ignorance of the English language, (he being a German,) compelled him, after his discharge, to spend much time among his friends in western New York, in efforts to regain his health and to acquire a knowledge of our language to enable him to take measures for obtaining a pension, to which he believed he was entitled, as his disability was occasioned by his exposure while in service, and in the line of his duty in the quarters at Fort Wood, which were then very uncomfortable ; that in January, 1855, while at Rochester, New York, he sent an application to the Pension office, which was afterwards returned to him as informal and defective ; and that in July, 1858, he renewed his application, but in consequence of his inability to obtain such evidence as the rules of the department required, his application and efforts have been unsuccessful. He further states, that he has used all the diligence that his means and circumstances would permit ; that he has been unable to find such officers as could recollect and testify relative to his disability incurred so many years ago ; and that he now despairs of obtaining such testimony as the department requires.

By a letter from the Pension office, it appears that the first record of his application on file there was on the 6th of July, 1858 ; and by a certificate and oath of two surgeons in Rochester, New York, it appears that they examined him in July, 1859, and testified to his total disability for obtaining a livelihood by manual labor.

The committee believe that the foregoing statements contain the principal and important facts in the case, and that the petitioner is entitled to relief. They, therefore, report a bill granting him a pension at the rate of eight dollars per month, commencing on the 6th of July, 1858.

